

Delaware Department Of Justice Announces Availability Of \$2 Million In Re-Entry Grants

Funds Represent Largest New State Investment In Community-Based Re-Entry Programs In At Least a Decade

Attorney General Matt Denn announced Thursday that workshops will be held in early August to explain to non-profit groups how they can apply for grants from \$2 million that has been set aside to support community-based efforts to reduce recidivism among adults and juveniles released from Delaware correctional facilities.

The \$2 million in grant funds were allocated to the state's Criminal Justice Council for this purpose by the Department of Justice, with the agreement of the General Assembly's Joint Finance Committee, from settlements with national banks for alleged misconduct in national financial markets.

The workshops will be hosted by the Criminal Justice Council on Wednesday, August 3 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Dover Police Department, 400 S. Queen St., in Dover, and on Thursday, August 4 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Goodwill Center, 300 E. Lea Blvd., in Wilmington. Video of the workshops will also be posted on the websites of both the Delaware Department of Justice and the Delaware Criminal Justice Council for interested non-profit groups that cannot attend.

Grant decisions will be made by the Criminal Justice Council, and the Criminal Justice Council will also monitor recipients' use of the grant funds. Grants will be available in amounts up to \$150,000, and for periods of up to two years, and the grant guidelines employed by the Criminal Justice Council will be

designed to ensure that funds are available both to larger organizations with a history of receiving and spending grant monies, and smaller qualified organizations that may not have an extensive history of receiving grants.

“Re-entry programs are a critical part of our state’s broader effort to reduce violent crime,” Attorney General Denn said. “This is by far the largest new state investment in community-based re-entry programs in at least a decade. It will allow us to keep good established programs afloat, provide an opportunity to expand newer programs, and create an even more clear record that these programs work so that the state can assume funding for them when the settlement funds run out. We are grateful to have the Criminal Justice Council’s expert assistance in overseeing the awarding and spending of these funds.”

Currently, approximately two-thirds of adult inmates released from Delaware correctional facilities commit new crimes within three years of release that are serious enough to result in their re-incarceration, and an even higher percentage of juveniles are re-incarcerated after being released.

